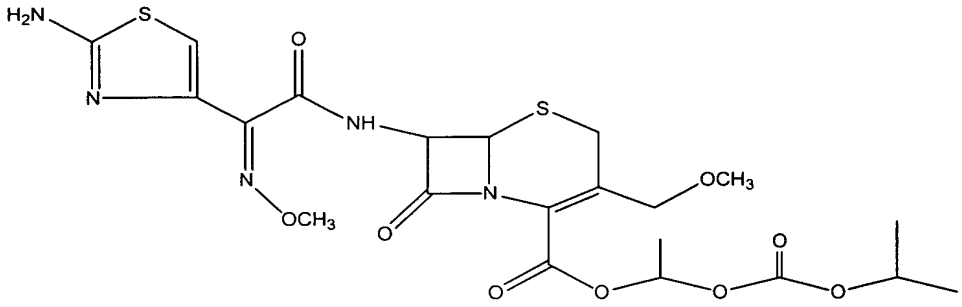
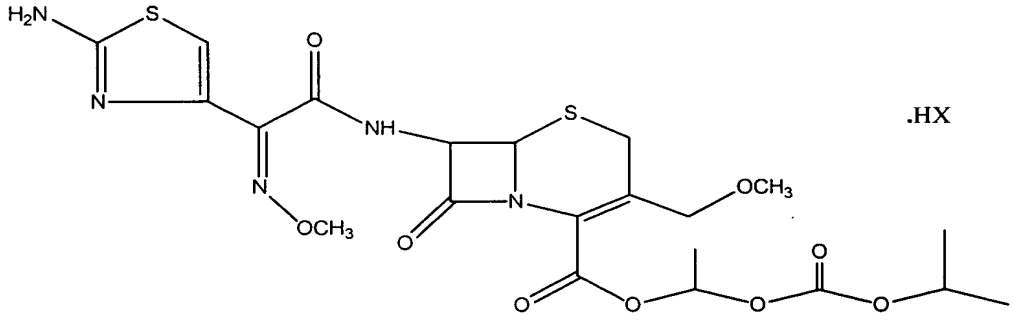
Listing of Claims:

1) (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of cefpodoxime proxetil of formula (I), of high purity conforming to pharmacopoeial specifications,



which comprises

~~c)~~ a) adding hydrogen halide to a solution of impure cefpodoxime proxetil in an organic solvent and isolating the hydrohalide salt of cefpodoxime proxetil thus formed, and



~~d)~~ b) dissolving the cefpodoxime proxetil hydrohalide salt obtained in the above step in a water-miscible or water-immiscible organic solvent and neutralizing

the salt thus formed with a base followed by isolation of cefpodoxime proxetil in pure form.

2) (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein said water miscible organic solvent is selected from an alcohol, tetrahydrofuran and acetonitrile.

3) (Original) A process according to claim 2, wherein said alcohol is selected from methanol, ethanol, n-propanol, isopropanol, n-butanol, isobutyl alcohol, tertiary butanol.

4) (Original) A process according to claim 1 wherein said water immiscible solvent is selected from a ketonic solvent, ethyl acetate, methyl isobutyl ketone, chloroform, dichloromethane and 1,2-dichloroethane.

5) (Original) A process according to claim 4 wherein said ketonic solvent is selected from acetone, methyl ethyl ketone and methyl isobutyl ketone.

6) (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 5, wherein said ketonic solvent is employed in a ~~voume~~ volume of from 2.0 to 7.0 times the weight of the impure cefpodoxime proxetil.

7) (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein said hyrdohalide is selected from hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid and hydroiodic acid.

8) (Original) A process according to claim 7, wherein the molar ratio of the hydrogen halide used is 1.0 to 1.5 times of cefpodoxime proxetil.

9) (Original) A process according to of claim 1, wherein the hydrohalide salt is isolated by filtration.

10) (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein said base is an inorganic base.

11) (Original) A process according to claim 10, wherein said inorganic base is selected from sodium bicarbonate, sodium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate and potassium bicarbonate.

12) (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the pure cefpodoxime proxetil is isolated by filtration.

13) (Currently Amended) A process according ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein said pure cefpodoxime proxetil has a diastereomeric ratio between 0.50 and 0.60.

14) (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein said treatment of hydrohalide salt of cefpodoxime with said base is carried out in 15 to 45 minutes, preferably, 30 minutes.

15) (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~as claimed in~~ claim 1 ~~or 14~~ wherein said treatment with said base is

carried out at a temperature of 15 to 40°C, preferably, 25 to 30°C.

16) (Original) A process as claimed in any preceding claim wherein after said treatment with said base, said reaction mixture is agitated for 60 minutes.

17) (New) A process according to claim 14 wherein said treatment with said base is carried out at a temperature of 15 to 40°C, preferably, 25 to 30°C.